

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 09571 110933Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 JUSE-00 /073 W
-----069926 110936Z /20

P R 110851Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7525
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, KS, US
SUBJECT: KOREAN PRESS COVERS PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR

REF: SEOUL 9479 (DTG 090840Z NOV 77)

SUMMARY: KOREAN PRESS FRIDAY HAS NO CONFIRMED DETAILS
OF THURSDAY'S OBETING ON PAK CASE BUT GOVERNMENT PAPER
HINTS ROKG PUSHING FOR LIMITED LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON NOVEMBER 11, MONRING CHOSON ILBO RAN REUTERS-
HAPTONG ITEM FROM WASHINGTON QUOTING ASST ATTORNEY GENERAL
CIVILETTI AS SAYING 11/9 THAT, IF PAK AGREES TO TESTIFY
IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMUNITY, HE MIGHT FIRST BE QUESTIONED
IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. SEOUL SINMUN ALSO RAN FIRST
PARAGRAPH OF THIS ITEM, THE FIRST MENTION OF COMINICAN
REPUBLIC IN KOREAN PRESS, IN CONNECTION WITH PAK AFFAIR.

2. KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS MOSTLY RAN BRIEF FRONT-PAGE
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STORIES SAYING THAT FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN AND AMBASSADOR
HAD MET FOR 50 MINUTES ON PAK TONG-SON CASE NOVEMBER 10,
BUT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD REFUSED TO PROVIDE
ANY DETAILS OF MEETING. IN MOST DETAILED STORY, OFFICIAL
SEOUL SINMUN (AFTERNOON PAPER) REPORTED IT "HAS BECOME
KNOWN" THAT TWO SIDES COULD NOT RECONCILE THEIR POSITIONS--
ROK'S THAT PAK TONG-SON BE QUESTIONED IN SEOUL AND THAT TWO

COUNTRIES CONCLUDE AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE, LIMITED TO THIS ONE CASE, SO THAT RESULTS OF QUESTIONING COULD BE USED IN U.S. COURTS; AND U.S.'S THAT PAK BE QUESTIONED IN A THIRD COUNTRY AND UTIMATELY TESTIFY IN U.S. COURTS. ARTICLE SPECULATED THAT OUTLINES OF COMPROMISE MIGHT BECOME KNOWN IN NEXT WEEK OR SO. ARTICLE QUOTES "A SOURCE" AS DENYING AS "UNTRUE" FOREIGN REPORTS THAT ROK AND U.S. HAD AGREED ON THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AS SITE FOR QUESTIONING PAK AND AS SAYING THAT, EVEN IF PAK SAYS HE WANTS TO GO TO A THIRD COUNTRY, THE ROKG'S POSITION IS THAT "THE CITIZENS' UNDERSTANDING" IS NECESSARY. COMMENT: THIS IS SECOND PRESS INDICATION IN TWO DAYS, AND STRONGEST YET, THAT ROKG IS PLUMPING FOR SOME SORT OF MUTUAL LEAGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. MEANING OF STATEMENT ABOUT "CITIZENS' UNDERSTANDING" IS UNCLEAR, BUT COULD BE ATTEMPT TO BOLSTER THIS POSITION. END COMMENT.

3. TWO OTHER AFTERNOON PAPERS SPECULATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROGRESS IN THURSDAY'S TALKS.

4. SEVERAL AFTERNOON PAPERS RAN TONGYANG ITEM FROM WASHINGTON REPORTING WASHINGTON STAR QUOTED CIVILETTI AS SAYING 11/10 THAT HE EPXECTED "NEWEST PROPOSAL" FROM ROKG IN "ONE OR TWO DAYS" AND AS EMPHASIZING THAT ANY AGREE-
MENT WITH USG MUST CONTAIN PLEDGE THAT PAK WILL TESTIFY IN U.S. COURTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, BRIBERY, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, UPPER HOUSE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL09571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770417-0102
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771169/aaaacgwo.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 9479
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 622534
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREAN PRESS COVERS PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, PINT, PINS, KS, US, (PARK TONG-SON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d03121c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009